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Don't Be Late: Due Date for Monthly Taxpayers Changes to 20th of Month

OLYMPIA, Wash., Aug. 7, 2003— Businesses take note: the deadline for filing monthly state tax returns with the Department of Revenue has changed to the 20th of each month.

The prior deadline for monthly filers was the 25th. No changes were made to due dates for taxpayers who file their returns quarterly or annually.

The Department of Revenue has contacted monthly taxpayers by mail to alert them to the change so they can avoid a 5 percent penalty imposed on late returns and is making other efforts to get the word out, Acting Director Will Rice said.

The Agency is recommending that taxpayers switch from old-fashioned paper returns to the Department's free Electronic Filing (ELF) system so they can file their returns early but delay payment until the due date, he said.

In addition to this "file-and-forget" feature, ELF also helps taxpayers by automatically calculating taxes due and flagging any potential errors or omissions before a return is submitted, Rice noted. Go to <http://dor.wa.gov> on the web for more information about ELF.

"We encourage businesses to try ELF because it helps them get it right the first time and avoid the high error rate we're finding in paper returns," he said.

Avoiding errors is more important than ever because the Legislature, in addition to moving up the due date, imposed 5 percent penalties on any bills the Department must send out because of errors on returns.

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